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Foodstuff Manufacturers to Affix Arabic Language Stickers on Labels

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

On June 9, 2010, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) informed Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce & Industry that it will fully implement section 7/2 of Gulf Standards Organization (GSO) No.9/2007 titled "Labeling of Prepackaged Food Stuffs". The most important requirement in the SFDA circular No. E/991 is the decision to accept only Arabic language stickers affixed by manufacturers (section 7/2/2/1 of GSO 9/2007) on labels of exported prepackaged food products.

General Information:

Labeling Requirements:

Foodstuff Manufacturers to Affix Arabic Language Stickers on Labels of Exported Prepackaged Food Products

On June 9, 2010, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) informed Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce & Industry that it will fully implement section 7/2 of Gulf Standards Organization (GSO) No.9/2007 titled "Labeling of Prepackaged Food Stuffs". The most important requirement in the SFDA circular No. E/991 is the decision to accept only Arabic language stickers affixed by manufacturers (section 7/2/2/1 of GSO 9/2007) on labels of exported prepackaged food products. In the past, Saudi Arabia has allowed food products exporting houses or consolidators to place Arabic language stickers on labels of prepackaged food products at their warehouses.

Period to Implement the New Requirement

SFDA granted a six month grace period that ends on December 9, 2010 for domestic foodstuff importers to fully implement the new requirement. SFDA has informed its food inspection laboratories at Saudi ports of entry to reject any prepackaged food products shipment that does not comply with the new Arabic language stickers requirement.

Section 7/2 states the following:

7/2: Language:

- 7/2/1: Labeling and adjoining explanatory statements shall be in Arabic and, where another language is used, it shall be alongside the Arabic. All the information provided in another language shall be identical with those written in Arabic.
- 7/2/2: If the Arabic information is stated in a supplementary sticker adjacent to the original label , the following shall be met:
 - **7/2/2/1: It shall be a single sticker provided by the manufacture only to fulfill all the relevant stipulations provided in this standard.**
 - 7/2/2/2: It shall not obscure any information required by this standard.
 - 7/2/2/3: It shall not contain any statement discrepant with the original labeling.
 - 7/2/2/4: It shall be irremovable in the ordinary handling and circulation conditions of the

prepackaged foodstuff.